

18585 #018 DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 NSC-10 SS-20 RSC-01 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07
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R 060105Z FEB 70
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9962

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN

SUBJ: SYMINGTON SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

REF: STATE 016605

FOLLOWING INITIAL DRAFT TEXT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AS REQUESTED REFTEL. IF YOU REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS COVERED LET ME KNOW:

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE:

IT IS HONOR TO APPEAR HERE BEFORE YOU TODAY TO TESTIFY ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THOSE RELATIONS ARE, IN A WORD, EXCELLENT.

QUARTER OF CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE U.S. TROOPS WERE FIRST SENT TO KOREA TO PREVENT TAKEOVER OF ENTIRE PENINSULA BY COMMUNIST ARMIES AND TO ASSIST PEOPLE TO FORM THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND CONDUCT THEIR OWN NATIONAL LIFE. WE FOUND, TO OUR REGRET, THAT OUR INTENTIONS WERE NOT MATCHED BY SOVIET ARMIES AND OFFICIALS WHO HAD MOVED INTO NORTHERN HALF OF PENINSULA, AND WHO BLOCKED ALL EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH UNITED KOREA BASED ON FREELY EXPRESSED WILL OF ITS INHABITANTS.

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A REPUBLIC WAS CONSEQUENTLY FORMED IN SOUTH KOREA IN 1948, AND AMERICANS BEGAN TO THINK OF, AND TO IMPLEMENT, WITHDRAWAL FROM COUNTRY. UNFORTUNATELY, IN 1950, REPUBLIC OF KOREA WAS SUBJECTED TO UNPROVOKED ATTACK FROM COMMUNIST-ORIENTED NORTH, WHOSE LEADERS BELIEVED THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO DEPART FROM KOREA WAS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR FOR THEM TO RUN RISK. BITTER WAR WHICH FOLLOWED COST US DEARLY, AND OUR ALLIES ALSO PAID HEAVY PRICE FOR THEIR DETERMINATION TO STAND ON PRINCIPLES ON WHICH U.N. ORGANIZATION WAS FOUNDED. AS FOR KOREAN PEOPLE, COST OF THE WAR WAS IMMEASURABLE IN TERMS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. WHEN SMOKE CLEARED, SITUATION HAD BEEN STABILIZED ALONG 38TH PARALLEL, THE SOUTH, WITH A MAJORITY OF POPULATION AND FEW NATURAL RESOURCES, BEING SUPPORTED BY U.S. AND OTHER ALLIES, WITH MORAL BACKING OF U.N. WHICH STILL MAINTAINS IN KOREA COMMISSION FOR UNIFICATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF COUNTRY.

AS COMMITTEE KNOWS, U.S. RATIFIED IN 1954 MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY WITH ROK UNDER WHICH EACH PARTY RECOGNIZES THAT ARMED ATTACK IN PACIFIC AREA ON EITHER OF PARTIES IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR CONTROL WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO ITS OWN PEACE AND SAFETY AND DECLARES THAT IT WOULD ACT TO MEET COMMON DANGER IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES.

SENATE GAVE ITS ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT TREATY OBLIGATES U.S. TO ASSIST KOREA ONLY IN CASE OF EXTERNAL ARMED ATTACK "AGAINST TERRITORY WHICH HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY U.S. AS LAWFULLY BROUGHT UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL OF ROK."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS PERTAINING TO U.S. SUPPORT FOR KOREAN SECURITY HAVE BEEN MADE FROM TIME TO TIME. THESE CAN BE SUBMITTED FOR COMMITTEE'S INFORMATION IF DESIRED. NONE OF THESE STATEMENTS OF WHICH I AM AWARE, IN MY OPINION, EXTEND U.S. COMMITMENT ORIGINALLY STATED IN MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY. MOST RECENT AUTHORITATIVE REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT WAS CONTAINED IN COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND PRESIDENT PARK OF KOREA IN SAN FRANCISCO ON AUGUST 22, 1969 FOLLOWING

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THEIR MEETING. IT READS AS FOLLOWS: "THE TWO PRESIDENTS AGREED THAT ROK FORCES AND AMERICAN FORCES STATIONED IN KOREA MUST REMAIN STRONG AND ALERT AND THE TWO PRESIDENTS REAFFIRMED DETERMINATION OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO MEET ARMED ATTACK AGAINST ROK IN ACCORDANCE WITH MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN ROK AND U.S."

ARMISTICE OF 1953 WAS NOT PEACE SETTLEMENT, AND AS COMMITTEE IS AWARE, MILLION MEN HAVE FACED EACH OTHER ALONG AND NEAR 38TH PARALLEL SINCE THAT YEAR, INCLUDING SIZEABLE CONTINGENT OF AMERICAN TROOPS. AT PRESENT, KOREANS OF SOUTH REGARD THIS SITUATION WITH ANXIETY, NOT BECAUSE THEY FEAR NORTH ON MAN-TO-MAN BASIS TODAY, BUT BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT KIM IL-SUNG IS COMMITTED TO REUNIFICATION OF PENINSULA BY FORCE IF NECESSARY AND BECAUSE THEY RECALL ALL TOO VIVIDLY THAT NORTH KOREAN ATTACK IN 1950 RECEIVED SUPPORT BOTH FROM SOVIET UNION AND COMMUNIST CHINA.

UNEASINESS OF OUR FRIENDS IS UNDERSTANDABLE. NEVER IN THEIR 3,000-YEAR HISTORY HAVE THEY EXPERIENCED RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT WHICH HAS DEVELOPED WITH AMERICANS
PORTER

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